TUTBURY CHURCH, STAFFORDSHIRE.

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The parish church of Tutbury is situated half way up the hill upon which stood the castle, built by one of William of Normandy's most enthusiastic followers, Henry de Ferrars, who had left his native land in company with the Conqueror, and to whom William gave such ample estates in Derbyshire and Staffordshire, that the family have been unto the present time most intimately connected with the history of those counties. The hill rises abruptly from the banks of the Dove, and presents a strong and commanding point for the erection of a strong-hold, advantages seldom lost sight of in the troublous ages which succeeded the Norman invasion. This castle became one of the most famous in England, and remained in the hands of the Ferrars family until it was forfeited to King Henry the Third by Robert de Ferrars, the rebel Earl of Derby. That monarch bestowed it on his second son, Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, and his descendant, Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, having fortified it against King Edward the Second, but being unable to hold it, it was surrendered again into the hands of royalty. In 1350, John of Gaunt rebuilt the greater part of it, and it became the principal seat of the Dukes of Lancaster. Its latter history is chiefly remarkable for the sojourn within its walls of Mary Queen of Scots as a prisoner, and for Lord Loughborough's maintaining a garrison here to support Charles the First. He was, however, compelled to surrender it to Sir William Brereton, the Parliamentary commander; and at the conclusion of the war, about 1646, it was reduced nearly to its present ruinous condition. There is little now left but the external walls and a few towers and gates, scarcely enough to give a notion of its original strength and importance.

The Priory, which now forms part of the parish church, was founded by Henry de Ferrars in or about the year 1080, but the editors of the last edition of "Dugdale's Monasticon" incline to think that it was more probably in the time of King William Rufus, in whose reign the charter of foundation was evidently framed. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and became a cell to the Abbey of St. Peter super Divam in Normandy. The granter grants great privileges to the monks; which were confirmed and added to by his grandson: and it continued to flourish in great prosperity until the suppression of the monasteries. The site of Tutbury priory was granted in the 6th of Edward VI. to Sir William Cavendish, who pulled down the priory and part of the church, together with the chapel of St. Stephen, to build himself a large house. The property is at present in the hands of the Duke of Devonshire, who has the gift of the living.

The west front of the church is particularly beautiful and remarkable for the richness of its Norman details. The principal door is a study for the architectural student, presenting as it does examples of varied enrichment, among which the chevron and billet moulding, as well as the bird's head decoration abound. The circular-headed window above, is equally profuse in ornament, and the arcade at each side is particularly interesting for the example it affords of the interlaced circular arch, producing the pointed arch; the spaces on the wall between each are sculptured in diaper-work; a bead-moulding also sculptured divides the stories; the flat buttress of the tower on that side next the door, bespeaks its age: the heavier buttresses at the angles of the tower are the work of a much later period, as also is the upper story of the tower, and its battlement, as well as that over the western gate. The lower window in the tower was originally a door; but the pillars on each side have been removed, and one row only of the ornamental stones which formed the top allowed to remain; and this accounts for the anomalous and tasteless combination of parts it now forms; the whole of the portion to the left of the door is also a modern antique, and in equally bad taste, having been executed when the church was repaired some years since, and the principles of Norman architecture little understood.

Within, the chancel roof is supported by massive Norman pillars; but the chief glory of the building is the fragment of the original work exhibited in our view.

The Artists' General Benevolent Institution.—The annual dinner in aid of this institution took place on Saturday last, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street. The Hon. Thomas Baring was in the chair, and was supported by a number of well-known artists and friends of art. 560*l.* were subscribed.

Chinese Glass Painting.—We are told that several specimens of Chinese painting upon glass, of which the colouring, especially that of the faces, is rich and delicate, have lately arrived at Glasgow.

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